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This example embodiment of an electric circuit breaker according to the present invention is advantageous in that the load protection characteristics of the circuit breaker ~~are~~ provided are programmable. In this way an electric circuit breaker is obtained which is suitable for a variety of consumers, load levels and network load constraints, without the need to perform replacement work or to keep a large number of different types of circuit breakers available.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 29, as follows:

Further advantageous non-limiting example embodiments of ~~the present invention~~ are defined in the dependent claims.

Please insert the following heading beginning at page 10, before line 1:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, as follows:

In the following, specific non-limiting example embodiments of ~~the present invention~~ will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings, similar or corresponding elements have been denoted with the same reference signs.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, as follows:

Fig. 2 shows a block diagram of a first embodiment of an electric circuit breaker ~~according to the present invention~~;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15, as follows:

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advantageous to provide a consumer type indication together with a programmable current threshold command CC from the communication ~~means-device~~ CBT, and to store a corresponding predefined type indication in each of the electric circuit breakers in accordance with the type of consumer. This consumer type indication allows that in order to prevent a complete black out under severe load conditions, the CBT will at first lower the current thresholds of such types of consumers which are less dependent on a guaranteed subscribed power level, and to gradually extend the reduction of the current thresholds to other types of consumers, if this turns out to be necessary to prevent a complete black out.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 20, as follows:

It is important to note that while this concept has been shown and described with regard to consumers connected to an LV network section supplied by a secondary substation S, the same concept can also be applied in other network portions higher up in the network hierarchy. E.g., electric circuit breakers programmable as described above, can be provided to protect sections of the MV network, with communication ~~means-device~~ being located at the primary substations Tp which monitor the present load conditions and which generate appropriate current threshold commands to the electric circuit breakers in the MV network and/or to the electric circuit breakers at the consumer premises supplied by the affected MV network section.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 22, as follows:

Reference numeral 23 in Figure 4 denotes ~~means for connecting the communication means device~~ CBT with central administration and control facilities 21 through a public wireless telecommunication network 20. The central administration and control facilities 21 can be